



Department of Justice

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EAST PRAIRIE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGE

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO - United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today that a Mississippi County woman pled guilty to a child exploitation charge.

Michelle L. Wallace, 35, of East Prairie, Missouri, entered a guilty plea to felony attempt to transport a minor child in interstate commerce with intent that such minor child engage in sexual activity. She appeared before U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry on Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

Wallace now faces a maximum of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine with the Court imposing a period of supervised release up to life. Sentencing has been set for February 12, 2007, in Cape Girardeau.

With her plea, Wallace admitted that on April 12, 2006, she and a minor child attempted to travel from East Prairie, Missouri to the state of Washington for the purpose of meeting an adult male who intended to engage in sexual activities with the minor child.

This case was charged as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Network Against Sexual Violence for their combined efforts to prosecute this case. Assistant United States Attorney Abbie Crites-Leoni handled the prosecution for the Government.

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